COLONEL MICHAEL J. THURSTON Program Manager Joint Battle Command-Platform

COL Michael J. Thurston was commissioned in May 1988 into the Signal Corps with initial duty as Platoon Leader and Executive Officer, C Company, 11th Air Defense Signal Battalion; and later as Information Systems and Radio Officer for the 32nd Army Air Defense Command, Darmstadt, Germany. Other assignments include Signal Officer 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division; Commander, HHC, 10th Aviation BDE; Commander, C Company, 10th Signal Battalion; and Commander, Wire and Support Maintenance Troop, Regional Signal Group SHAPE, Belgium.

His acquisition assignments include: Assistant Executive Officer Headquarters Department of the Army Chief Information Officer-G6; Product Manager Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) Ground Mobile Radios; Assistant Product Manager Joint Network Node; Communication Electronics-Life Cycle Management Command Trail Boss - 101st Airborne Division; Assistant Project Manager and System Engineer Warfighter Information Network-Tactical; Assistant Product Manager JTRS; and Chief, Concepts Branch, Directorate of Combat Developments, US Army Signal Center.

COL Thurston has deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, first as the PEO C3T Operations Officer and Liaison to the Combined Forces Land Component Command and again as Trail Boss with the 101st Airborne Division. He also deployed with the 10th Mountain Division to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy.

COL Thurston holds Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and has completed the Executive Program Management Course, Army Command and General Staff College, Signal Officer Advanced and Basic courses and the Army Systems Automation Course.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with OLC, Meritorious Service Medal with two OLC, Army Commendation Medal with three OLC, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Parachute Badge. COL Thurston is also authorized the Meritorious Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit and Army Superior Unit Awards and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

COL Thurston is married to the former Anne Marie Tourville and has five children.